



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Charles D. Baker
Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito
EEA Secretary Matthew A. Beaton
DCR Commissioner John P. Murray

Press Release Contact: Bill Hickey — (617) 626-1453 or William.hickey@state.ma.us

DCR Breaks Ground on Remediation of Former Shaffer Paper Site at Port Norfolk in Dorchester

DORCHESTER— Thursday, April 30, 2015—Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Jack Murray today joined State Senator Linda Darcena-Forry, State Representative Daniel Hunt, Boston City Councilor Frank Baker and other local officials to break ground on the agency's remediation of the former Shaffer Paper site in the Port Norfolk section of Dorchester. Once completed, the project will convert the contaminated former industrial property into a park, with links to several other parklands in the area.

"The remediation of the Shaffer Paper site is the final step in reclaiming the former industrial side of Dorchester's Neponset River Shoreline, and we are excited that another stage of this project has begun," said DCR Commissioner Jack Murray. "I thank the community and the legislative delegation for their commitment and advocacy. Because of these efforts, this once contaminated site will be turned into a park that will be enjoyed for generations."

Located on the lower Neponset River, adjacent to DCR's Pope John Paul Park, the 15-acre Schaffer Paper site was formerly a marsh land that was filled in the 1950's. The site was then used by two lumber companies which would load wood products onto the Old Colony Railroad for distribution. As a result of this use, the site was contaminated by uncontrolled releases of hazardous wastes, including chromium. In 1986, the land was taken by eminent domain for \$1.9 million. Since it acquired the site, the Commonwealth invested \$3 million in building demolition, environmental testing and remediation of the property.

"The people of Port Norfolk have been waiting decades for the clean up of this site," said Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. "I am so pleased that after years of hard work, this community will finally have additional, public green space in their neighborhood that will be enjoyed for generations to come."

"Today's groundbreaking has been a long time coming and I am honored to celebrate with the residents of Port Norfolk and all of Dorchester," said Senator Linda Darcena-Forry. "This is a day to remember neighbors, such as Barbara Tankle, whose passion and love for the neighborhood are the reasons we are here today."

"The Port Norfolk Park will not only enhance the shoreline of Dorchester but will serve as a critical link to the Boston Harborwalk and the Neponset River Greenway Trail, which has been a priority of mine since first taking office," concluded Senator Forry.

"I'd like to thank Governor Baker for honoring the commitment to the Port Norfolk Neighborhood and to Commissioner Murray for his work on this project over the last eight years," said State Representative Dan Hunt. "The neighborhood has been advocating for this project for well over 30 years and this will finally complete the Neponset River Park system and offer unparalleled views of the city skyline and

Boston Harbor. Speaker Finneran and Mayor Walsh set this all in motion and we are truly grateful for their leadership.”

Funding for the \$4.25 million project will come from DCR’s capital budget over the course of Fiscal Years 2014-2016. The property will also be a key continuation to the Neponset River Trail and connecting pocket parks, including the Neponset River Greenway.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Jack Murray, the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us

###

- Follow DCR on Twitter..... twitter.com/massDCR
- View videos on You Tube..... www.youtube.com/MassEEA
- View downloadable photographs on Flickr..... www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/
- Visit the Energy Smarts blog www.mass.gov/blog/energy
- Visit The Great Outdoors blog www.mass.gov/blog/environment
- Visit our website..... <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/>

251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 626-1250 office / (617) 626-1351 (fax)